Contents

Chapter 1 Purpose And Need1	Relationship to Other Planning
Introduction1	Projects29
Background2	General Management Plan29
Road Construction2	Commercial Services
Historic Significance3	Plan/Environmental Impact
Visitor Use and Experience3	Statement30
Previous Studies4	Roadside Maintenance Guideline31
Management Direction6	West Entrance Plan31
Recent Studies6	Transportation Plan/EA31
Recommendations for	Resource Management Plan32
Rehabilitation7	Exotic Vegetation Management
Purpose and Objectives7	Plan32
Need for the Project8	Decision Process32
Needs Associated with the Road's	
Structure8	Chapter 2 Proposed Action and
Needs Associated with Safety14	Alternatives33
Needs Associated with	Alternative Development Process33
Deterioration of Cultural	Design Standards for Road
Resources15	Rehabilitation34
Needs Associated with Damage to	Alternative 1—No Action (Repair as
Environmental Resources15	Needed)34
Needs Associated with	Scheduling and Funding35
Deficiencies in Visitor Use	Traffic Management35
Facilities15	Transit Service During
Scoping and Public Involvement24	Rehabilitation35
Issues Considered in this EIS25	Operations and Maintenance35
Natural Resource Issues25	Visitor Use Improvements38
Cultural Resource Issues27	Mitigation38
Visitor Use and Experience Issues28	Alternative 2—Priority Rehabilitation38
Park Operation Issues28	Scheduling and Funding39
Local and Regional Economic	Traffic Management39
Issues28	Transit Service During
Environmental Justice Issues28	Rehabilitation40
Impact Topics29	Operations and Maintenance40
Impact Topics Considered29	Visitor Use Improvements40
Impact Topics Dismissed from	Mitigation40
Further Consideration 20	5

Alternative 3—Shared Use with	Environmentally Preferred
Extended Rehabilitation Season	Alternative71
(Preferred)40	Alternative 1—No Action (Repair
Scheduling and Funding41	as Needed)71
Traffic Management41	Alternative 2—Priority
Transit Service During	Rehabilitation72
Rehabilitation42	Alternative 3—Shared Use72
Operations and Maintenance42	Alternative 4—Accelerated
Visitor Use Improvements43	Completion72
Mitigation for Alternative 351	The Environmentally Preferred
Alternative 4—Accelerated	Alternative72
Completion with Isolated Road	Summary73
Segment Traffic Suspensions	
(Accelerated Completion)54	Chapter 3 Affected Environment81
Scheduling and Funding54	Socioeconomic Resources82
Traffic Management54	Park Visitation and Operations82
Transit Service During	Local and Regional Economy91
Rehabilitation55	Cultural Resources
Operations and Maintenance55	Archaeological Resources107
Visitor Use Improvements55	Historic Resources108
Mitigation for Alternative 455	Ethnographic Resources111
Actions Common to All Alternatives56	
Proposed Rehabilitation Work by	Cultural Landscapes111
Road Segment56	Natural Resources
Road Rehabilitation Techniques58	Topography, Geology, and Soils112
Vegetation Management61	Water Resources114
Construction Staging During	Vegetation116
Rehabilitation62	Wetlands120
Material Sources62	Wildlife Resources121
Traffic Management and Visitor	Aquatic Resources124
Access During Construction63	Threatened and Endangered
Mitigation Measures64	Species and Species of Concern124
Alternatives and Mitigation Excluded	Air Quality130
From Further Consideration70	Visual Resources131
Convert the Going-to-the-Sun	Natural Soundscape and
Road to a One-Way Loop During	Lightscape134
Rehabilitation70	Wilderness and Wild and Scenic
Visitation and Local Economic	Rivers135
Impact Mitigation Eliminated from	
Consideration71	

napter 4 Environmental Consequences137	Aquatic Resources194
Introduction137	Threatened and Endangered
Methods138	Species and Species of Concern196
Cumulative Effects138	Air Quality205
Past Actions147	Visual Quality206
Reasonably Foreseeable Activities .147	Natural Soundscape and
Impairment of Park Resources and	Lightscape209
Values151	Wilderness and Wild and Scenic
Socioeconomic Resources152	Rivers211
Methodology for Socioeconomic	Sustainability and Long-Term
Assessment152	Management212
Projected Impacts on Visitor	The Relationship between Short-
Experience, Visitation, and Local	Term Uses of the Environment and
Spending154	the Maintenance and Enhancement
Projected Economic Impacts From	of Long-Term Productivity212
Construction Activity162	Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources213
Projected Impacts on Park	
Operations170	Adverse Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided214
Fiscal and Community Impacts171	Avoided214
Environmental Justice172	
Cumulative Impacts172	Chapter 5 Compliance with
Conclusion175	Federal and State Regulations215
Cultural Resources176	
Effects Common to all Alternatives 177	Chapter 6 Consultation and
Effects of Alternative 1 (Repair As	Coordination219
Needed)179	List of Preparers and Contributors219
Effects of Alternative 2 (Priority	Agencies, Organizations and
Rehabilitation)179	Individuals To Whom This EIS Was
Effects of Alternative 3 —	Sent
Preferred (Shared Use) and	Elected Officials222
Alternative 4 (Accelerated	Federal Agencies222
Completion)	Canadian Government Agencies222
Cumulative Effects180	State and Provincial Agencies222
Conclusion180	Organizations/Businesses222
Natural Resources180	
Topography, Geology, and Soils180	Chapter 7 References225
Water Resources183	Glossary231
Vegetation186	Index233
Wetlands189	
Wildlife 190	

Figures	Tables
Figure 1. Vicinity Map5	Table 1. Contributing features specifically
Figure 2. Going-to-the-Sun Road	identified in prior historic
Corridor11	significance documentation, Going- to-the-Sun Road4
Figure 3. Roadside Vegetation in 1939	
(left); Roadside Vegetation Near the	Table 2. Comparison of alternative features36
Same Location in 1987 (right)20	Table 3. Visitor use improvements along
Figure 4. Existing Trailheads21 Figure 5. Existing Toilets22	the Going-to-the-Sun Road included
	in Alternatives 3 and 449
Figure 6. Existing Interpretive Sites23	Table 4. Visitor development strategies
Figure 7. Visitor Use Improvements48	recommended by the CAC53
Figure 8. Study Area for Socioeconomic Analysis82	Table 5. Rehabilitation priority by Road segment and milepost (MP)56
Figure 9. Visitors to Glacier National Park (1979-2000)83	Table 6. Types of rehabilitation work for each method of traffic management63
Figure 10. Monthly Visitors to Glacier	Table 7. Comparison of alternatives and
National Park (1995-1999)84	impacts74
Figure 11. Average Daily Visitation Levels at Glacier National Park	Table 8. Proportion of visitor groups participating in each activity85
(2001)84	Table 9. Time spent in specific areas
Figure 12. Percent of Tourists Making Stops87	along the Road86
Figure 13. Travel Routes To/From Glacier	Table 10. Days spent in the Glacier
National Park, 200088	National Park area by Park visitors86
Figure 14. Montana Economic Study	Table 11. Baseline GNP visitor
Area92	expenditures by category and county (year 2000)89
Figure 15. Seasonality in Monthly	Table 12. Estimated direct and secondary
Unemployment Rates in the Montana	output supported by GNP visitation
Study Area96	(year 2001)89
Figure 16. Southwest Alberta Study Area for Socioeconomic Analysis103	Table 13. Estimated direct and secondary
Figure 17. Generalized Deer, Elk, and	employment supported by GNP
Moose Winter Range122	visitation (year 2001)90
Figure 18. Harlequin Duck Habitat123	Table 14. National Park Service employees by division at Glacier
Figure 19. Bald Eagle Territories125	National Park91
Figure 20. Grizzly Bear Autumn Habitat126	Table 15. Montana portion of the study
Figure 21. Cultural Landscape Segments133	area land area and ownership91
Figure 22. Geographic extent of	
reasonably foreseeable activities149	

Table 16. Total employment, 1980 to 1999, three-county study area,	and tourism-related employment for Alternative 2157
Montana	Table 33. Projected annual effects on visitor expenditures for Alternative 2 (millions of year 2001 dollars)157
area	Table 34. Projected study area effects on Park visitation, annual expenditures, and tourism-related employment for Alternative 3
and three-county study area95 Table 20. Unemployment rates, Montana and three-county study area95	Table 35. Projected annual effects on visitor expenditures for Alternative 3 (millions of year 2001 dollars)160
Table 21. Study area population, Montana and three-county study area97 Table 22. Historical and projected	Table 36 Projected study area effects on Park visitation, annual expenditures, and tourism-related employment for Alternative 4161
population growth rates for the Montana study area	Table 37. Projected annual effects on visitor expenditures for Alternative 4 (thousands of year 2001 dollars)162
promotion in the Montana study area99 Table 24. Non-seasonal/reservation	Table 38. Summary of average annual visitation-related effects162 Table 39. Projected Alternative 1
vacant units	(baseline) annual construction activity by category (2001 dollars)163
the Going-to-the-Sun Road corridor109 Table 27. Federally listed threatened and	Table 40. Projected baseline annual effects on construction expenditures for Alternative 1 (2001 dollars)164
endangered species evaluated for potential occurrence near the Goingto-the-Sun Road127	Table 41. Projected construction expenditure for Alternative 2 (2001
Table 28. Going-to-the-Sun Road landscape segments (west to east)132	dollars)
Table 29. Impact threshold definitions and duration	Alternative 2 (2001 dollars)165 Table 43. Projected construction
Table 30. Reasonably foreseeable future actions	expenditures for Alternative 3 (2001 dollars)166
projections of GNP visitation155 Table 32. Projected study area effects on	Table 44. Projected effects on construction expenditures for Alternative 3 (2001 dollars)167
Park visitation, annual expenditures,	Table 45. Projected expenditures for Alternative 4 (2001 dollars)168

Table 46. Projected construction	
expenditures for Alternative 4 (2001	
dollars)	169
Table 47. Summary of Average Annual Construction-Related Effects	170
Table 48. Potential for disproportionate impacts on low income areas from each alternative.	173
Table 49. Summary and comparison of average annual direct and indirect effects of Road rehabilitation alternatives on study area economic	175
output (2001 dollars)	175
Table 50. Assessment of socioeconomic	
impacts associated with Road	
Rehabilitation	177

Appendices

Appendix A: Going-to-the-Sun Road Deficiencies and Repairs

Appendix B: Socioeconomic Impact Methods for Analysis and Supporting Data Appendix C: Sensitive Wildlife and Plant

Species